

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Members of Two Camden Cocaine Distribution Organizations Convicted for Drug Distribution

***– Two of the Three Defendants Convicted of Committing Murder to
Protect Operations –***

(More)

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CAMDEN – The leader and an enforcer of a major cocaine distribution organization were convicted by a federal jury today for their participation in a drug distribution conspiracy and for committing a murder to protect their operations, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

After seven hours of deliberations, which began on March 6, the jury convicted Jevon Lewis, 33, of Cherry Hill, a.k.a. “V” and “Cool V,” and Ahmed Judge, 31, of Camden, a.k.a. “Edy” and “Bleek,” on one count each of drug distribution conspiracy; murder while engaged in that conspiracy; and murder in the course of a firearms offense. Judge was also convicted of one count of possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon, for possessing the murder weapon.

The jury also returned a guilty verdict against Mack Jones, 35, a.k.a “Bear,” of Camden, on one count of drug distribution conspiracy. Jones was the leader of a separate long-term, large-scale drug trafficking organization in Camden. Jones faces a mandatory life sentence because of his two prior felony drug convictions.

Lewis and Judge were both arrested on Feb. 7, 2006, following their indictment for the Oct. 4, 2001, killing of Kenneth Fussell in connection with a Continuing Criminal Enterprise (CCE) that was directed by Raymond Morales. Both Lewis and Judge are facing a sentence of up to life in prison.

“We set out on a mission to bring greater resources to help in the fight against drugs and gangs in the City of Camden,” Christie said. “Today’s verdict, along with other successfully completed prosecutions and still others yet to come, are the fruits from a law enforcement community that is united in the effort to stop the violence and improve Camden neighborhoods .”

On Feb. 8, 2006, federal, state, county and city law enforcement authorities announced that four major cocaine distribution organizations, responsible for the distribution of large quantities of cocaine in Camden neighborhoods, had been dismantled in a series of arrests. Federal charges had been brought against a dozen defendants who were named in any of two Indictments and/or two separate Criminal Complaints. Four other defendants were previously arrested and charged federally, and an additional 35 suspects were arrested on state charges over the course of the four overlapping investigations.

The Indictments and Complaints were offshoots of another long-term investigation that culminated in the March 8, 2003 arrests and subsequent Indictment of six defendants, including Morales, 36, of Camden. At the time of those arrests, agents seized approximately 30 kilograms of cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$5.85 million. On May 31, 2007, authorities for the first time announced that Morales had pleaded guilty on July 27, 2005, to a nine-count Superseding Information and was cooperating with the government.

The Superseding Information to which Morales pleaded guilty charged him with six counts of ordering a murder in furtherance of a Continuing Criminal Enterprise (“CCE”); one count of witness tampering by ordering the attempted murder of a witness; one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute over 500 grams of cocaine; and one count of being a principal administrator of a CCE that operated in Camden from 1993 until 2003.

At the trial of Lewis, Judge and Jones, Morales testified that he distributed kilograms of cocaine directly to the leaders of other drug trafficking organizations and that those leaders included Lewis and Jones. Morales testified that Lewis headed a large-scale drug trafficking organization that operated in and around Camden. Morales testified that from as early as 2001 and continuing until September 2002, he supplied Lewis’ organization with kilogram quantities of cocaine, which totaled in the hundreds of kilograms.

Morales also testified that Jones headed a large-scale drug trafficking organization that he supplied with cocaine from the early 1990's and continuing to the middle of 2003. During that time, the Jones organization purchased hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from Morales, he testified.

In convicting Lewis and Judge, the jury found that Lewis, Judge and others conspired between 1993 and March 8, 2003, with others, including Morales, to distribute and possess with intent to distribute large amounts of cocaine and crack cocaine. The jury also found that Lewis and Judge, while engaging in that conspiracy, intentionally caused the killing of Fussell in Camden.

U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas, who presided over the nine-week trial, has not scheduled sentencing dates at this time. The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Diana V. Carrig and Howard Wiener of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

“DEA is proud to be an integral part of the successful law enforcement coalition dispensing justice to those undermining progress in this city,” said DEA Special Agent in Charge Gerald P. McAleer.

Count One, which charges conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, carries a minimum penalty of 10 years and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4 million. Count Two, charging murder while engaging in a drug-trafficking conspiracy or in furtherance of a Continuing Criminal Enterprise, carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life. Count Three, which charges murder in the course of a firearms offense, carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4 million. Count Four, which charges Judge with being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000.

In determining the actual sentences, Judge Irenas will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited the Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerald P. McAleer in Newark, and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor Office Homicide Unit, under the direction of Acting Camden County Prosecutor Joshua Ottenberg, with the investigation that resulted in today's convictions and numerous prior guilty pleas.

Christie also thanked the member agencies of the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force for their assistance in the investigation. The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force is comprised of the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Districts of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, The Camden County Prosecutor's Office, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, DEA, FBI, ATF, Camden Police Department, New Jersey State Police, Philadelphia Police Department, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Department, Delaware River Port Authority Police and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Diana V. Carrig and Howard Wiener of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

– end –

Defense Attorneys:

Lewis - David Rudenstein, Esq. Merchantville
Judge - Rocco Cipparone, Jr., Esq. Haddon Heights
Jones - Justin Loughry, Esq. Moorestown